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**Soldiers on
profile work to
overcome
injuries**
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33 Soldiers earn U.S. citizenship

Spc. Michael Adams
3ID Public Affairs

Thirty-three Soldiers changed their lives forever, officially becoming American citizens during a naturalization ceremony, at Marne Garden, April 4.

“Today, this is a great day to be a Soldier and an American,” said Maj. Gen. Tony Cucolo, commander of the Third Infantry Division. “Thirty-three American Soldiers from all over the world – Asia, the Pacific, Africa, the Caribbean, Central and South America, Mexico and Europe – become American citizens today.”

Cucolo discussed what the new citizens thought of joining America.

“Getting ready for today, I read all of our Soldiers’ reasons for wanting to become a citizen and why they are wearing the U.S. Army uniform, and they would make you proud,” he said. “Common themes run throughout their reasons: ‘I want the right to vote. The USA is my home now, and I want to be a real part of it. I want to be a part of the greatest nation the world has ever in one form or another seen.’ The reasons they joined the Army, they are nearly unanimous: All of these Soldiers said in some form or another, ‘I want to give back to the country that gave me so much.’”

See CITIZEN ————— Page 5A

Stewart plans for change

Spc. Michael Adams
3ID Public Affairs

Changes to Fort Stewart and the 3rd Infantry Division were outlined in a Rehearsal of Concept Drill at Club Stewart, April 1.

The drill, which was attended by generals and planners from Installation Management Command, Forces

Command, the Department of the Army, and other leaders from commands at the top echelon of the Army, discussed changes coming to the base and the unit to plan for the arrival of the 5th Brigade Combat Team over the next two years.

The first major change at Fort Stewart will be building new homes for Army Families.

See EXPANSION ————— Page 2A

Battle Command Seminar preps division for MND-N

3rd Infantry Division Public Affairs

Leaders from the Third Infantry Division conducted a Battle Command Seminar, April 6-9, designed to help the division form Task Force Marne in preparation to take over Multi-National Division-North from the 25th Infantry Division.

More than 160 representatives converged on Evans Army Airfield at Fort Stewart, to start forming the TF Marne MND-N staff. Third ID Commanding General Maj. Gen. Tony Cucolo hosted the Battle Command Seminar.

Staff members from the 25th ID, out of Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, currently serving as MND-N, opened the four-day brief explaining that full-spectrum operations are still taking

place to rid the area of violent extremists; however, Iraqi Security Forces are increasingly making decisions and taking the lead to protect their country.

This fall, 3rd ID will conduct a transfer of authority with the 25th ID and take control of the area. In preparation for the command changeover, Cucolo invited commanders and representatives from all the units scheduled to be part of the TF Marne team to attend the seminar. The briefings were planned and coordinated by members of the Battle Command Training Program out of Fort Leavenworth, Kan., to ensure that the information was relevant to the division’s mission and represented Iraq’s current status.

See EXERCISE ————— Page 10A



Pfc. Gregory Gieske

Spartans sharpen warfighter skills

Second BCT, 3rd ID Soldiers reach the first phase line during the fire support coordination exercise, March 27 as they follow procedure to continue the mission to Observation Point 1. See Story, page 3A.

West Point commandant surveys Stewart

Staff Sgt. Tanya Polk
4IBCT Public Affairs

The United States Military Academy commandant conducted a round of surveys with recently redeployed 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division Soldiers and Family Members at Fort Stewart, April 1.

Assessing the impact seven years of war has made on the Army Family, its institutions and its culture, West Point Commandant Brig. Gen. Michael Linnington, West Point Senior Enlisted

Advisor Command Sgt. Maj. Anthony Mahoney and representatives from the Army’s Well Being G1 department gathered direct feedback from the Vanguard Brigade to help better sustain the Army as the service continues to fight in the Global War on Terrorism.

“We’ve been at war for quite some time now,” Mahoney said. “We’re here to help. We have an obligation to stay the course (of the GWOT) and fix what we can fix to make the Army more palatable for the future.”

See WEST POINT ————— Page 9A



Stewart, Hunter celebrate military children

The Month of the Military Child began with smiles and fun as parades at the Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield Child Development Centers drew participants and parents despite the rain, April 1.

The theme for Stewart's parade was "Bring Communities Together for Children – Children Bring Communities Together," while Hunter opted for "Character Counts."

With Easter weekend just around the corner, all military children can join in on the fun during Easter Egg Hunts at both installations that will offer games, food and prizes throughout the day. See related stories on 1B.

Photo by Nancy Gould

Don't forget: Taxes are due April 15

See related article, page 2A

Garrison CSM advises community to adjust to construction

Command Sgt. Maj. James Ervin
Garrison Command Sergeant Major

You have undoubtedly noticed the significant amount of construction on Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield. As we receive funding for specific projects, we immediately begin the process of expanding roads, improving existing structures and building new facilities to better serve our Soldiers, Family Members and Army Civilian employees. While it would be convenient to complete much of the construction during deployments, that is not always possible due to the timing of our receipt of funding.

What does this mean to you? It means that traffic flow will be impacted and parking is limited or restricted in areas

affected by construction. If you live off post, plan to leave earlier to compensate for delays at the gates and major intersections. Look for alternate parking in areas near your place of duty and be prepared to walk farther than normal. Army Civilian employees can discuss alternate start times with their supervisors, and adjust their work hours when permissible.

Units continue to conduct physical training from 6:30-7:30 a.m. in authorized areas only, but due to construction traffic patterns, which may affect Army Civilian employees' travel routes and times.



Always drive safely and be aware of your surroundings. Parking lot speed zones are 5 mph and must be observed in order to avoid accidents. Observe the school zones speed limit of 15 mph from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.daily. If you feel a need to speed in these areas in order to arrive at work on time, you need to adjust your departure time to compensate. Let your battle buddies and Family Members know what the rules are and remind them that safety is our top priority.

The city of Hinesville will soon offer some traffic relief in the form of a public

transit system. Bus routes will travel through Fort Stewart, with stops in the housing areas and key locations on post, including the commissary, post exchange and Winn Army Community Hospital. This will provide another option for travel on and off the installation that will reduce congestion during peak hours.

We continuously monitor traffic flow on the installation and are working on a long-range approach to keep improving it. You can assist us by providing specific feedback and by taking the actions I spoke of above. The growth of our installation is vital to maintaining the superior work place that we all enjoy. Sometimes that growth may seem slow, but keep the end goal in sight: an installation that serves its population as well as you serve all of us.

EXPANSION

from Page 1A

“We spent the day together going over the plan for Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield from this day, this month, through fiscal year 2015,” said Maj. Gen. Tony Cucolo, commanding general of 3rd ID. “We asked questions like, ‘with 3,400 more Soldiers with a certain number of Family Members - the facilities being built for them, are they being built on time? Will the road network that will support the location of this new brigade be built on time?’”

Cucolo added that Stewart underwent \$453 million of construction this year. By 2013, \$1.3 billion of construction will take place at Stewart and Hunter.

“(Stewart-Hunter) is a growth industry,” Cucolo said, noting the division contributes \$4.3 billion in economic impact to the area every year. “Twenty-five thousand Army Civilians, Soldiers and contract personnel in 2003 (will increase) to almost to 37,000 by 2013. We just want to make sure the facilities and infrastructure will support the growth we expect. By the end of 2010, there will be an additional 10,000

people in the Liberty County area. The effort today was to make sure across the Army all the things that support that growth are on track.”

Cucolo also discussed plans for Army Families, including a plan to build a Liberty County school on post, and emphasized with local community leaders the need for the county to build more housing for military Families.

The second major change is developing sufficient on-base infrastructure to support the growing military community.

“We have extra gas stations, shoppettes... all those are coming online to handle the growth on the installation,” said Col. Todd Buchs, garrison commander of Fort Stewart. “The commissary is going through a \$7.5 million renovation program right now. (That construction) is very much in lock step with our growth.”

Dave Tindoll, director of Installation Management Command, Southeast, talked about Stewart and all it

has to offer Soldiers and the military as a whole.

“This is a great place for Soldiers to serve their country,” Tindoll said. “If you stop and look at where Fort Stewart is located, it’s truly a strategic deployment platform. Having (3rd ID) here, you have a capability to launch the division out of Hunter Army Airfield and out of the port facilities there at Savannah. It’s an enduring Army installation. It’s gonna be here awhile.”

Cucolo also spoke of the local community and how he feels about working with them.

“Southeast Georgia is the most supportive place I have ever served,” said Cucolo. “The community is magnificent. The great advantage of the leadership in this area is they are visionary, they are planners and they look ahead. We have Liberty County, Hinesville, Richmond Hill, Bryan County, Chatham and Effingham, they see this as a region, not just separate towns.”

The decisions in the coming months will impact not only the unit and community, but also the U.S. Army.

Seller beware: Solicitation permits safeguard home business

Bob Mathews
FMWR Marketing Publicity Specialist

With the ever-changing economy, some are choosing to sell retail items from their homes or elsewhere on post. This can be a lucrative venture, but it is important to ensure that these entrepreneurs do it the right way, and understand their legal obligations.

A solicitation permit is necessary to help protect Soldiers and their Families from unscrupulous or dishonest business men and women whose products or services are not what they appear to be, and to prevent unwanted solicitation to others on the installation.

“(Individuals need to) make sure they have a solicitation permit before you do any business with them,” says Lesa Brannen, a Budget Analyst for the Directorate of Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation.

The approximately 10-day permitting process begins with Brannen. Once she

assures that the application information is in order, it is forwarded to the Staff Judge Advocate for a legal opinion.

Individuals or private organizations, such as Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts and Family Readiness Groups, do not need a solicitation permit for non-profit activities. They are validated through a separate process.

“If they don’t have a permit, or they are on post without the Staff Judge Advocate having looked at any of their credentials to be sure they are OK, you better watch out,” Brannen cautioned Soldiers and their Families.

Permits are required for insurance and financial products salespersons, sales representatives for products such as Avon, Mary Kay, The Pampered Chef, individuals who sell arts and crafts, or those who offer services such as lawn care. Those who are uncertain about whether they need a permit should contact Brannen.

Even those holding a permit are pro-

hibited from door-to-door solicitation or distributing flyers on post, Brannen said. The permit also doesn’t allow for solicitation in unit areas including day rooms, parking lots, work sites, and officers’ and enlisted quarters.

“The only way they can go up to your door is if you invite them for an appointment,” she said, adding that if the person has not been invited, “ask them for their credentials. Get all of the information you can and then call the military police.”

Failure to be sure that a solicitor has proper credentials and has been approved to do business on post can be costly to Soldiers and their Families, Brannen said.

To report an unauthorized solicitation or suspicious business activity, call Military Police at 767-4895. To request an application for a solicitation permit, or to learn more about who must have such a permit, call Lesa Brannen at 767-5138.

FAQs on Solicitaion Permits

Q. *You'd like to do some planning for the future, you might want to buy more life insurance, and you prefer to do it in the comfort of your on post home. Can you do business at home with an investment advisor/insurance agent?*

A. **Yes, provided the advisor/agent has a post-solicitation permit and made an appointment with you in advance.**

Q. *A friend asks you to be the hostess for a house party. There's this great new line of home products her company wants to introduce – and you would get a nice gift just for hosting. Can you do so?*

A. **Yes, you may, but the person who intends to sell products at the house party must have a solicitation permit.**

This week in Marne History: The Thunder Runs and the fall of the Saddam Hussein regime

Dr. Judith Brown
Fort Stewart Museum

Six years ago this week, the 3rd Infantry Division spearheaded the attack on Saddam Hussein and his regime in Operation Iraqi Freedom. The two Thunder Runs on April 5 and 7 were central to “the most bitterly contested moment in the war,” but by the end, the 3rd ID controlled central Baghdad. Two days later, April 9, the government of Saddam Hussein fell.



Courtesy Photo

Colonel David Perkins, 2nd brigade commander during the 2003 Thunder Runs.

The story of the Thunder Runs begins on the afternoon of April 4. Second Brigade commander, Col. David Perkins, ordered Lt. Col. Eric Schwartz, commander of Task Force 1/64 Armor, to attack Baghdad at first light the next day, though no American troops had yet set foot in the city. The next morning, the

tanks traveled more than 10 miles of uncharted territory, sweeping through enemy defenses, traversing southwest Baghdad, and finally linking up with the 1st Brigade at Baghdad International Airport, which they had just taken control of.

Then the attacks began, from troops in trenches by the road to gunmen with .50-cals in cars, taxis and even buses. At an overpass, resistance increased; a tank was hit in its rear, caught fire and eventually had to be destroyed by its crew to keep it out of Iraqi hands.

At the spaghetti junction, the turnoff to the airport was so filled with smoke from a burning Iraqi personnel carrier that the directional signs were obscured. The lead tank took the wrong exit about halfway down the ramp, and plowed through a guardrail into the correct lanes. Another tank, fallen behind because of mechanical problems, approached a traffic circle filled with Iraqi trucks and soldiers, as a yellow pickup truck sped toward it. The tank’s remaining machine guns destroyed the truck and continued on, catching up with the column before reaching the airport. Task Force 1/64 Armor killed more than 1,000 enemy fighters and changed the course of the battle.

The second Thunder Run followed on April 7, as the Iraqi Information Minister took to the airwaves to falsely proclaim that no American troops were in Baghdad and that Iraqi soldiers had killed hundreds of Americans at the airport. The

2nd Brigade charged toward central Baghdad in a repeat of the action two days before, constantly fending off attacks. Task Force 1/64 Armor rolled into Saddam’s parade field and occupied several buildings, including one of Saddam’s two downtown palaces, the convention center, and the Rashid Hotel. Task Force 1/64 Armor took Saddam’s Republican Palace and the 14th of July Bridge, which controlled access to the south, as heavy fighting began at three famous objectives.

Objectives Larry, Curly and Moe occupied intersections along Highway 8. Task Force China, of 3rd Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, commanded by Lt. Col. Stephen Twitty, took on the mission of seizing and holding these intersections to protect lines of communication to support the 2nd Brigade’s main effort: to destroy Saddam’s Medina Division. Company A, 3/15 Inf., seized Objective Moe, the most northern of the three objectives while Company B, 1/64 Armor, took Objective Larry. Objective Curly fell to Team Zan, a team consisting of a mechanized infantry platoon, an engineer squad, a mortar platoon and a scout section. All three had to fight their way into position under intense fire.

At Objective Moe, Company A destroyed more than 60 vehicles and killed as many as 200 enemy infantrymen. Company A destroyed more than 60 vehicles and claimed the lives of 250 enemy infantrymen at Objective Larry. At Objective Curly, Team Zan had an intense

engagement with the enemy as well.

The enemy at Curly was Jihadists, who fired small arms and rocket-propelled grenades at Team Zan incessantly for almost 14 hours. They charged the U.S. positions in cars, trucks, taxis and even motorcycles with rifles tied to the side cars. They drove cars loaded with explosives at high speed toward the U.S. positions, hoping to take Americans with them when they exploded. Team Zan’s mortar platoon successfully conducted three artillery missions, which had a huge effect on the mission, resulting in the destruction of dozens of enemy vehicles and ended the lives of 100 enemy infantrymen. Had Curly been overrun, the rest of Task Force 3/15 Inf. and two armor task forces farther north would have been isolated deep within the city. Objectives Moe, Larry and Curly continued to be held.

On April 9, Baghdad fell. U.S. Marines advanced into the city, linked up with the 3rd ID and, in one of the most famous images from Operation Iraqi Freedom, a huge statue of Saddam Hussein was pulled down from its base.

The tenacity shown by the 2nd Brigade on the Thunder Runs and at Objectives Moe, Larry and Curly abbreviated the strategic timeline of the war by days, if not weeks. They showed themselves to be true successors to the 3rd ID Soldiers who held the line of the Marne in World War I, stormed through the Siegfried Line in World War II and secured Line Kansas in Korea this week in 1951.



Photos by Pfc. Gregory Gieske

Captain Cory Wallace, C Co., 1/30 Inf. Regt., 2nd BCT, pays close attention as Maj. Ike Sallee, 2nd BCT, operations officer in charge, assists him in scouting an awaiting target during a fire support coordination exercise at Observation Point 1 at Fort Stewart, March 27.

Spartan training boosts Soldier confidence, leadership

Pfc. Crystal M. Bradley
2nd BCT Public Affairs

In order for a Soldier to be ready for combat, he or she must not only be physically able to do the job, the Soldier must also be mentally prepared.

Spartan Soldiers of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division stepped up their training schedule within the last month in preparation for their upcoming deployment.

Intense schedules in firing and qualifying on weapons, combat ground fighting skills, road marching, and land navigation serve as a few of the heightened training 2nd BCT has undergone in order to prepare both mentally and physically for another deployment.

Second BCT Soldiers took their training to a higher level March 27 at Firing Point 13, conducting a fire point mission with joint operations where they trained on call for fire and indirect fire.

One Soldier who attended the training and works

as a fire support specialist said that the training gave him a good idea of what to expect in combat.

"The training was really serious," said Spc. Michael McDonald, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd BCT. "We simulated using observational points to find enemies and then, called in the enemies' grids to artillery once we spotted them." McDonald is on the brigade's combat observation laser team.

"We trained well into the wee hours of the morning; up at 2 a.m., maneuvering so we would not be seen by the enemy and calling for fire when necessary," he added.

The Soldiers also commented that being able to train with fellow 2nd BCT Soldiers outside of their respective battalion made the entire experience more realistic.

"I had a good time at the training; I learned a lot," said Pvt. Samuel Candler, HHC, 2nd BCT, 3rd ID. "I am much more comfortable with my comrades throughout the brigade as well as the equipment I will be using down range. The experience definitely got me closer to where I should be as far as combat-readiness."

Candler also said he enjoyed the iterations and scenarios when the Air Force and Marine fire-fighters who participated in the training event dropped simulated 500 pound bombs on the targets.

"That was most exciting part of the entire experience," Candler said. "This was really some high-speed training."

Troops got a needed boost of confidence from the training, according to Capt. Arturo Flores, Troop A, 3rd Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd BCT commander.

"The Soldiers out here trained hard, and the results are well worth it. They seem more confident, and I also saw them step up their roles as leaders out here as well," said Flores. "This is just what we need as we get ready for another deployment."



Second BCT, 3rd ID Soldiers call for fire after using the Lightweight Laser Designation Rangefinder at Observation Point 1 during the Fire Support Coordination Exercise, March 27.



Prior to executing the fire support coordination exercise at Firing Point 13 mission, Soldiers from 3/7 Cav. conduct a rehearsal of the pending mission, March 27.

LEFT: Second BCT, 3rd ID Soldiers use their map to identify terrain features as they await smoke before proceeding to Observation Point 1 at Fort Stewart, March 27 during their call-for-fire training.



Leading his Soldiers through a make-shift village, Capt. Cory Wallace, Company C, 1/30 Inf., 2nd BCT, prepares himself and his Soldiers for the final phase of the call for fire training exercise at Fort Stewart, March 27.

Barrack's Life: 'Spc. Spoiled' to clean up at yard sale

Spc. Monica K. Smith
CAB Public Affairs

If there is anything I've learned in my three years in the Army, it is that I despise cleaning – sweeping, mopping, dusting, taking out the trash – I would rather pay someone to do it for me. Luckily, someone out there could be willing to turn my trash into treasure, and pay me in the process!

The Great MWR Yard Sale is around the corner! Being a barracks mouse (I am

not a rat), I don't have a yard, but for just five dollars, I can register for a spot in the parking lot at Fort Stewart or Hunter Army Airfield. Registration is required to participate; however, there is no cost to those who wish to sell items from their own on-post housing. Registration puts your location on a map that is provided to buyers to let them know where sales are happening.



The yard sale will take place from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., April 18 with the Stewart sale taking place at Club Stewart and the Hunter sale happening at the Credit Union parking lot. All Family Members of active-duty Soldiers, retirees and Army Civilians are invited.

What about the things you don't sell? Don't put them back in a closet that already has toom much in it. To help you

out, Goodwill will be present at both the Hunter and Stewart sales to take your unwanted toasters and Duck Hunt gaming supplies for Nintendo. Just don't try to sell your Mary Kay or Tupperware – you have your own parties for that.

Don't hesitate! Get ready for your next barracks inspection, or make your spouse happy by finally getting rid of the deer head that's on your living room wall. Registration ends April 16. Register today by calling 767-8238 (Stewart) or 315-2019 (Hunter).

NCOs and Soldiers need each other be successful

Sgt. Rebecka Reyes
3rd HBCT Public Affairs

The day I became a noncommissioned officer was like any other. It was during our Friday battalion formation, and Soldiers being promoted lined up in front of the formation.

One by one, our orders were read. When my turn came, my specialist rank was ripped from my chest, and the rank of sergeant was put in its place. I stood a bit taller, proud of my accomplishment, and proud that I now belonged to a group I'd longed to be in.

After a safety brief, all specialists and below were released, and all of the NCOs were told to stay behind. This was the first time I thought, "What did I get myself

into?"

Now, six months later, I've learned a lot. There are a lot of responsibilities that come with being a sergeant. Now, I have to ensure that my Soldier is on time, in the proper uniform and prepared for the day. That is the role of an NCO – to lead and to train.

But what if your Soldier doesn't want to be led or trained? What if they don't understand that your butt is on the line as much as, and sometimes more so, than theirs?

In this "Year of the NCO," with so much focus on good NCOs, I thought it would be only fair to also let Soldiers know what makes a good Soldier – what we, as NCOs, are looking for in those we lead.

I want a Soldier who asks questions. I understand that you don't know everything – no matter who

you are or where you came from. You are the rank you are because of what you know in the Army – the Army doesn't give out rank at a raffle. All NCOs you meet had to earn the rank they wear. When it comes to the Army, they do know more than you, so listen to them.

I want a Soldier who shares. "*I will communicate consistently with my Soldiers and never leave them uninformed.*" I said this line from the NCO creed when I went before the board, and have said it many times since. I think some Soldiers don't realize that their world is a better place when communication goes both ways. I'll make sure you know where you are supposed to be and when, what training is coming up, and how to take care of personal issues. Inform me if you have an issue

with your landlord or need money for your car, if your girlfriend is pregnant or if a member of your Family is sick. While these may seem personal, I need to know about them. It'll be easier for us to resolve your issues if I know about them when they arise.

I want a happy Soldier. Let's all be professional adults. Not everyone will love what gets served at the dining facility every day, or some training that we have to go through. A poor attitude isn't going to make the misery go away – it's actually going to make it miserable for you, your peers and your leaders. Do your best to stay motivated. If not, I will find a way to motivate you, and it will probably be less enjoyable than the training.

I want a Soldier with good manners. Give the respect to your lead-

ers that they deserve. Whether that means standing at parade rest or tacking "sergeant" on the end of your sentences, do it. If my 2-year-old daughter can be polite, you can, too.

Most of all, I want a Soldier that follows instructions. I know this sounds basic, but it's the most important thing. If there's a formation at 9 a.m., you need to be in formation at 9 a.m. If you have tasks to complete before you go home, I need you to get those tasks done.

You won't always get what you want; however, I promise you as an NCO and your leader, that I'm going to be the best NCO I can be for you. As long as you're the best Soldier you can be for me, our world on The Hill, and in the Army as a whole, will be a better place.

Keep kids safe: Prevent window-related injuries, deaths

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

Problem: *Children can hurt themselves with power windows. Each year, children are injured when a window closes on their finger, wrist, or hand,, and some have been strangled by power windows.*

Prevention Tips:

- Never leave your children alone in a vehicle for any reason.
- Teach your children not to play with window switches.
- Teach your children not to stand on passenger door

- arm rests.
- Properly restrain your children in car seats or seat belts to prevent them from accidentally activating power windows.
 - Look and make sure your kids hands, feet, and head, are clear of windows before raising the windows.
 - Never leave the key in the ignition or in the "on" or "accessory" position when you walk away from your car.
 - If available, activate the power-window lock so that your children cannot play with the windows.

What you need to know, now:

All new vehicles will have "pull to close" switches,

which, as their name indicates, require you to pull up on them to close the window. Older vehicles may have window switches that a child can accidentally step or put weight on, easily causing a window to close.

Some vehicles have power windows that automatically reverse when an object (such as your child's arm or neck) is in the path of a closing window. Check your owner's manual to see if your vehicle has this safety technology.

For more information on highway and traffic safety, visit www.nhtsa.gov.

Editor's Note: *This is part of a six-week series on vehicle safety for children. Next Week: Vehicle Rollaway*

Tax filing deadline approaches, Marne tax centers offer assistance

Randy Murray
Public Affairs Specialist

Tax filing season ends April 15. If you have not already filed your taxes, Marne tax centers will remain open until April 30 to provide free tax preparation for active-duty Soldiers, retirees and eligible Family Members.

A trained staff, led by Fort Stewart's Legal Assistance Office, is available to help you prepare and file your taxes on time. Both the Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield tax centers are open 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Walk-in and drop-off services are available, but when you come by the tax center, please bring the following documents:

- W-2 form for all wages received
- Military ID (self and spouse)
- Social Security card (or memo from SS Administration for self and/or Family Members)
- Power of Attorney if necessary
- Prior year tax return
- Proof of child/dependent care expenses
- Interest income statement (e.g., 1099INT)
- IRA/TSP Contribution Statements
- Dividend income statement (e.g., 1099DIV)

- Educator expenses and/or proof of educational expenses
 - State income tax return (prior year)
 - Receipts for charitable contributions
 - Property tax receipts
 - Home mortgage interest statement
 - HUD 1 statement (if home purchased in 2008)
 - Student loan interest statement
 - Divorce decree if applicable
 - Statements reflecting capital gains/loss
- Call 767-1040 for more information or an appointment at Stewart or 315-3675 for Hunter.

CORRECTION: A March 26 Frontline article about DPW engineer, Anne de la Sierra, stated that she had won the DPW Engineering and Planning Executive of the Year for the Installation Management Command, Southeast Region, when in fact the award was from HQ, IMCOM.

Marne Voices Speak Out

Marne Voice asks students from Kessler Elementary School: What are you doing for Spring Break?

"My grandma is going to take me to the beach."

Allyson Durham



"I'm going to visit my grandmother. It's my cousin's birthday, so we might go bowling or skating."

Vivian Tate



"Go to Sea World and spend time with my Family."

Roxanne Bundrick



"I'm going to visit my Family in San Antonio and go to Sea World."

Ray Vela



"I'm going to see my dad in Savannah, and I might go to Florida to see my cousin."

Dayaa Gray



"I'm going to practice Tae Kwon Do and help my parents with a dog we're going to get."

Paul Jaymasen-Reeves

Voice your opinion!
Write a letter to the editor!
Send to:
Marne TV & The Frontline
Attn: The Frontline, Editor
112 Vilseck Rd., Suite 109
Fort Stewart, Ga. 31314
or email to:

stewfrontline@conus.army.mil
or fax it to 912-767-9366
visit www.stewart.army.mil

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2nd Bde. staff writer - Pfc. Crystal Bradley
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3rd Bde. staff writer — Spc. Ben Hutto
4th Bde. NCOIC — Staff Sgt. Tanya Polk
4th Bde. staff writer — Spc. Amanda McBride
Avn. Bde. NCOIC — Sgt. 1st Class Kim Green
Avn. Bde. staff writer — Spc. Monica Smith
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Year of the NCO recognizes SFC Gabriel Gonzalez

Spc. Michael Adams
3rd ID Public Affairs

Sergeant Major of the Army Kenneth Preston proclaimed 2009 as the Year of the Noncommissioned Officer to highlight all that NCOs do both for the Army and the Soldiers they lead.

Here at Fort Stewart, one NCO, Sgt. 1st Class Gabriel Gonzalez, an air traffic controller with the Special Troops, 3rd Infantry Division, epitomizes

the role of an NCO.

Gonzalez takes pride in what he does and what the Army does for its young Soldiers.

“In the civilian world, you find supervisors are only concerned about their nine-to-five - the eight hours that they work for you, and when you go home, no one cares,” he said. “In the Army, we care about Soldiers 24 hours a day, and you’re concerned about their emotional lives and professional [lives]. You have more

control to mold these Soldiers into a more productive person, whether they stay in the Army or not. You become filled with pride by knowing you are able to affect someone’s life in a positive way.”

Gonzalez said he is concerned about his Soldiers’ performance as a total human being and is proud he has been able to affect so many lives by helping Soldiers enhance themselves as all-around people.

Gonzalez has also worked as an Army recruiter, a job he found challenging but rewarding.

“When I actually put someone in the Army, or when I would see someone come back from basic training or (advanced individual training), I’d see a changed person,” he said. “To know I was able to affect their lives in that way, to make that transition from a civilian to a person in the military, that brought me great pride.”

Gonzalez is very proud of what he was able to accomplish during his deployment to Iraq.

“We did make a difference,” he said. “To say you were able to affect someone else in another country, how many opportunities do you get to say that? To me, that’s awesome.”

Gonzalez is an NCO who takes great pride in what he does. He is one of many NCOs who go above and beyond the call of duty to serve his country and his Soldiers.

Sgt. Maj. Max Brown praised for work in community

Kara Casto
Community Liason

In honor of the Year of the Noncommissioned Officer, Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Air Field recognizes the important contributions of Sgt. Maj. Max Brown, Directorate of Emergency Services, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, to the wellness of our community.

In October 2007, Brown developed the Community Services Committee to provide mediation for resident disputes and to provide a forum for Soldiers, Family Members and their chains of command to address personal issues that would otherwise impact the Soldier’s mission focus.

“We saw an increased number of resident disputes during deployment and realized that residents didn’t have an outlet for seeking assistance other than contacting the garrison commander,” Brown

said. “It was evident that we needed to take action to assist these Soldiers and Family Members in an administrative capacity and that we needed to engage their chains of command for support.”

Due to the high operational tempo at Stewart-Hunter, many Families frequently find themselves without their most comfortable resource for assistance - their Soldiers. So when normal community disputes occur, they can escalate into major confrontations.

With his impressive record of 24 years in the Military Police Corps, Brown realized that some of these disputes could potentially escalate into criminal situations.

“In the military police and on the battlefield, we don’t always get to see positive outcomes of situations, and we don’t usually see people at their best,” Brown said. “With the CSC, I get to help our Soldiers and Families, and see their relief when they realize they can achieve an

immediate and desirable resolution. Often, people just need to step back and look at both sides of an issue to realize that a peaceful community is within their own control.”

Brown devised a plan to help Families work together to formulate diplomatic resolutions through the guided process of the CSC. The CSC works with Balfour Beatty Communities and the Community Liaison Office to identify Families who are having excessive difficulty with neighbors or other community-related issues.

As chairperson of the CSC, Brown reviews cases and encourages Family Members to develop and implement their own neighborly resolutions to their issues during the meeting. Prior to dismissal, he notifies them of the possible outcomes for continued disputes or policy violations, which may include lease termination by the housing partner. Since a representative from the chain of command is present, the CSC provides an

opportunity for units to assist their Soldiers and Families in an effort to avoid actions that could cause a hardship for them.

In the period from October 2007 to March 2009, the CSC met with 33 Families. Criminal activity was discovered during the investigation of two cases and forwarded to the Directorate of Emergency Services. Of the remaining 31, only two were seen a second time by the CSC.

Under Brown’s skillful direction, the CSC provides a unique opportunity for residents to participate in a mediation process that serves them well, and helps Soldiers and Families enjoy an improved quality of life at Stewart-Hunter.

In addition to assisting Soldiers and Families with an immediate response to their concerns, the CSC that Brown implemented sends a clear message that Army leadership cares about its total Army Family and is here to sustain, support and defend them.

CITIZEN

Specialist Claudette Penaredondo, automated logistics specialist, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 4th Battalion, 3rd Aviation Regiment, Combat Aviation Brigade, originally from the Philippines, is one of America’s newest citizens.

“It feels great. I’m very honored to be an American

citizen,” she said. “I’m serving this nation. It’s an honor to fight for our freedom and rights. Both of my grandfathers were World War II veterans. They were Filipino citizens who served under the United States.”

Another Soldier was just as proud to become an American citizen.

“I’m very proud,” said Pvt. Edward Szall, a tanker with the 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, originally from Great Britain. “I’m part of the greatest nation in the world. In America you can do what you really want; you can speak freely. It’s a great place.”

Other leaders who attend-

ed the event were proud of the Soldiers who were sworn in as American citizens.

“This was an absolutely great ceremony,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Jesse Andrews, 3rd ID senior enlisted advisor. “These 33 Soldiers have made a great decision to support and defend the constitution of

our nation and now have the opportunity to be sworn in as American citizens. It’s a great day to be a dogface soldier.”

Andrews encouraged leaders to help Soldiers who were immigrants to submit the proper paperwork so that they can one day take part in a similar ceremony.

from Page 1A

Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield Briefs

Marne tax centers open through April 30

Tax centers are open through April 30 for free tax preparation for active-duty Soldiers, retirees and eligible Family Members. Hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. Walk-in and drop-off services are available. Call 315-3675 for information and appointments at Hunter Army Airfield, or 767-1040 at Fort Stewart.

Direct Select OCS is available

Find out about the division commander's Direct Select Officer Candidate School option. The division commander will directly select 20 Soldiers to attend OCS. The Direct Select OCS option can help further your education and your service to our great nation as a commissioned officer. Contact your chain of command. Applications are due to G1, May 8. Learn more at usmilitary.about.com/od/armytrng.

90-day rule is back

The "90-day window rule" is coming back to the retention program. If a Soldier is within 90 days of leaving the service, he or she cannot re-enlist. Soldiers who want to re-enlist and are within the 90-day window have to submit a DA Form 4187 signed by their company commander and endorsed by their battalion commander. In the remarks block of the 4187, Soldiers must state why they waited to re-enlist.

Babysitting classes offered

The Stewart babysitting course is scheduled from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., June 8-9 and June 22-23 at the Youth Center, building 7338. For more information, call 767-2312.

There is no charge for the training. Upon completion of all required training, teens will receive a Red Cross first aid/infant and child CPR certification.

Weekend dining facility hours posted

The Fort Stewart weekend dining facility is the Provider Dining Facility, building 726 and the Vanguard Dining Facility, building 512. The Hunter Army Airfield weekend dining facility is the 1/75 Ranger Dining Facility, building 110. Weekend serving hours at both locations are 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. for brunch, and 3:30-5:30 p.m. for dinner.

The Warrior Transition Battalion Dining Facility, building 12902 (in the National Guard training area) is open every weekend. The WTB serving hours are breakfast 8-9:30 a.m., lunch 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., and dinner 5-6:30 p.m.

Op Purple camps now taking applications

The National Military Family Association is now

accepting applications for Operation Purple summer camps. Each camp is open to children of any uniformed servicemember, active-duty or reserve component. Register online at <http://www.nmfa.org>.

Registration will be open until midnight (Eastern Standard Time) April 20. Priority is given to military children with a parent deployed or deploying anytime between September 2008 and December 2009 and have not had the opportunity to attend an Operation Purple camp in the past.

Stewart

Construction affects Frank Cochran Drive

The parking lots at buildings 1137 and 1145 off of Frank Cochran Dr., are undergoing renovation until April 17, from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Please be aware of flagmen and expect delays during construction. Parking in these areas will be limited and pedestrians must use designated paths as construction barricades will restrict access during renovation. For further information, call 767-2010.

Shoppette undergoes construction

Victory Shoppette is being renovated through June 30. The gas pumps will close tomorrow, and the store will close May 15 through June 25. For more information, call 876-8434.

Hunter

Hunter road closure

Billy Mitchell Blvd. is closed for construction south of its southern most entrance to Tominac Fitness Center, to its intersection with Hickam Blvd. Billy Mitchell Blvd. is also closed at its intersection with William Barksdale Circle.

Hunter Spouses' Club luncheon

The monthly luncheon and meeting of HSC will sponsor lunch for \$11 and a basket auction at 11 a.m., April 14.

If interested in attending, contact rsvp@hunter-spousesclub.org or call 756-3179 to pay online.

Ranger DFAC now open

The Ranger Dining Facility, building 110, is now open. Hours are 8-9:30 a.m. for breakfast; noon-1:30 p.m. for lunch; and 4:30-6 p.m. for dinner. Join the Rangers for Seafood Thursdays!

3rd ID Society Reunion slated

The 3rd Infantry Division Society and attached units in wars and in peactime will hold their 90th reunion, Sept. 16-20.

The reunion will be held at the Clarion Hotel Springfield, 3333 S. Glenstone Ave. Springfield, Mo. 65804; (417) 883-6500. Room rates are \$84 per night plus tax. Includes a free breakfast.

Free airport transportation. For additional reunion information, contact Linda Irvine at (360) 663-2521, or e-mail to info@thereunionbrat.com.

Balfour Beatty Communities

Yard of the Month

It's that time of year again and spring is in the air, so get out your rakes and shovels! We will be judging homes in every neighborhood on neatness, presentation and effort.

At Hunter, the winner will be awarded a \$25 gift check, and judging will occur between 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., tomorrow. Remember, if you don't win this month, there will be other chances until August!

Plant garden

Help make your community center beautiful by joining in the planting of the garden/flower beds at Fort Stewart, 3:30 - 4:30 p.m., April 16, at The Southern Oaks Community Center, and at Hunter 4:30 - 5:30 p.m., April 14, at The New Savannah/New Callaway Community Center. Come leave your own special touch!

Take the Night

This ACS-sponsored event, scheduled for 5-8 p.m., April 22, is an international event with marches and rallies that signify a way to speak out against violence and raise community awareness as a preventive measure against future violence. Join us and ACS and take back the night in your neighborhood! The event begins at The Southern Oaks Community Center for Stewart residents. At Hunter, the event will begin at the BBC leasing office between New Gannan and Wilson Acres at 6 p.m., April 28.



RECYCLING ROUND UP



April 16 and 24 • Fort Stewart Furniture store parking lot (building 419)
April 17 and 23 • Across the street from the Hunter Fitness Center

All unwanted and used items such as: bicycles, grills, clothing, kitchen appliances, furniture, newspapers, E-waste (used oil, old paint, fluorescent light bulbs, lithium batteries)

For additional information, please contact Johnny Davis 767-6573 or Ronald King 767-8880

HAZWASTE 767-8012

ASK THE JUDGE: Advance Medical Directives

Capt. Jaime L. Jacobson
Legal Assistance Office

Hey Judge, I'm trying to get all of my affairs squared away in anticipation of the next deployment. I've already scheduled an appointment to have my will prepared at Legal Assistance, but when I tried to fill out the will questionnaire, it asked whether I wanted a living will or a Special Power of Attorney for Healthcare. I don't even know what these are, so how do I know if I need one?

Q: *What is a Special Power of Attorney for Healthcare?*

A: A Special Power of Attorney for Healthcare appoints a person to make healthcare decisions for you in the event that you cannot make decisions for yourself. This person is referred to as your healthcare agent.

Q: *What kind of decision can my healthcare agent make for me?*

A: Your healthcare agent has the authority to make any healthcare decision for you. For example, your agent can admit and discharge you from the

hospital, consent to or withhold treatment, speak with your healthcare providers, and access your medical records. Unless you choose to limit your agent's powers, your agent will also have certain powers after your death including the power to authorize an autopsy, donate your organs or body, and make decisions about the final disposition of your body.

Q: *Are there any limitations on who I can choose to be my healthcare agent?*

A: Yes, there are a few limitations. First of all, if you are married and you choose your spouse as your agent, that nomination will be revoked if you should ever get divorced. If you are single and later get married, your selection will be revoked unless your agent is your new spouse. Also, healthcare providers who are directly involved in your healthcare cannot serve as your agent. The most important things to remember when choosing an agent is to pick someone that you trust, someone who knows what your choices would be, and someone that will respect and follow through with those choices.

Q: *What is a living will, and how is it different from a regular will?*

A: A regular will is an instrument designed to choose a distribution scheme for your estate and to appoint guardians for your children upon your death. A living will, or Advance Medical Directive, is completely separate from your will. The purpose of a living will is to communicate your treatment preferences to a medical services provider if you have a terminal condition or fall into a state of permanent unconsciousness, meaning that your life is only being prolonged by means of artificially provided life support, and you are unable to communicate your treatment preferences. The living will not only gives you an opportunity to document your wishes in advance of such an illness or accident so that your wishes are more likely to be honored, but the living will can also serve to take the burden off of your Family and loved ones from having to make those decisions for you.

Q: *I think I'm ready to get a Healthcare Power of Attorney, and probably a living will as well. How do I get one, and who do I talk to if I have any more questions?*

A: You always have the option of making an appointment with an attorney at Legal Assistance to prepare your paperwork, but if you have questions and would like more information, we strongly recommend you attend the National Healthcare Decisions Day fair taking place on April 16 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Fort Stewart Army Education Center. Soldiers, Family Members, Retirees and Army Civilians are encouraged to come meet with representatives from your local Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, Winn Army Community Hospital Patient Affairs Division, and the Medical Evaluation Board Outreach Legal Office for free information about advance care planning and advance directive forms.

The Winn Army Community Hospital Patient Affairs Division will provide blood pressure, glucose, and cholesterol screenings.

The Legal Assistance Office will assist you with preparing Advance Medical Directives and Healthcare Powers of Attorney. Please make an appointment to speak with a legal assistance attorney. Fort Stewart—building 621, call 767-8809/8819; Hunter – building 1211, call 315-5115.

Notice of Availability: Environmental Assessment available to public

Directorate of Public Works

In September 2008, the Army released a draft Environmental Assessment for public comment on a proposal to implement the Army Campaign Plan decision at Fort Stewart, Georgia. Part of the ACP decision included constructing new facilities to support a new Infantry Brigade Combat Team. After the public comment period closed, the Army published the final EA, after having determined the project would not have a significant impact on the environment and issued the final EA with a "Finding of No Significant Impact." This document supplements the original EA to address one specific action associated with the new IBCT facilities project that has arisen since the original EA was published. The new action that was not anticipated at the time is the construction and reroute of Fort Stewart Tank Trail 47.

The Supplemental EA addresses the potential impacts to the human environment to include cultural resources, threatened and endangered species, and all other components of the surrounding environment. The Supplemental EA, resulting in a draft FNSI, indicates that no significant adverse impacts would result from the proposed action addition. A copy of the EA and draft FNSI will be available for public review from April 8 through May 8 at the public libraries listed below. All public review comments must be received no later than May 8.

- Fort Stewart Main Post Library, Building 411, 316 Lindquist Rd.
Monday-Thursday 10:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Closed Friday
Saturday-Sunday 11:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Hunter Army Airfield Post Library, building 1290, 165 Markwell Street

Monday- Thursday 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Closed Friday through Sunday

- Liberty County Public Library, 236 Memorial Drive, Hinesville

Monday- Thursday 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Friday-Saturday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Sunday 2 p.m. - 6 p.m.

- Mall Branch Library, 7 Mall Annex, Savannah

Monday- Thursday 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Friday-Saturday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Sunday 2p.m.- 6 p.m.

We request that all comments be mailed to:
Amber Franks
Environmental Division
Directorate of Public Works
1550 Frank Cochran Drive, Bldg. 1137
Fort Stewart, GA 31314-4927

Public Notice: Scoping meetings to discuss impacts at Fort Stewart

Directorate of Public Works

Fort Stewart/Hunter Army Air Field announces scoping meetings to engage members of the public and other interested parties in the environmental impact statement process, addressing its Mission and Master Planning actions.

The EIS will address known and reasonably anticipated changes in missions and operations at FSGA. It will analyze the cumulative socioeconomic and environmental impacts associated with a number of personnel stationing actions and changes in how the Army trains and deploys our nation's Soldiers.

When the EIS is completed, it will be used by Army decision-makers as an important resource to consult when making major decisions about future land uses and operations at Fort Stewart. To the degree possible, given existing data, it will also evaluate the potential environmental impacts of essential mission and supporting management activities on Fort Stewart.

The Fort Stewart M&MP actions have the potential to significantly impact certain natural, economic, social, and cultural resources of the

Fort Stewart community. The objective is to provide a comprehensive EIS that will serve as a planning tool, a public information source and a reference for mitigation tracking.

The EIS will analyze the impacts associated with construction of training ranges and other facilities as well as revisions to the M&MP process. Revisions to the M&MP process will allow the Installation to continue to train soldiers, protect valuable environmental and cultural resources, and minimize negative impacts to neighboring communities.

The proposed action involves constructing ranges and facilities to support the re-stationing of military units, accommodating the current and future training requirements, and revising operational and management plans for training lands and infrastructure.

The Fort Stewart M&MP EIS will analyze the environmental and socioeconomic impacts of several alternatives including the No Action Alternative. Alternatives will be developed during preparation of the Draft EIS and as a result of public input and environmental analysis.

The scoping meeting will evaluate alternatives for constructing new and

modifying existing training ranges, and for expanding onsite facilities at Fort Stewart. Discussions will include the assessment of potential environmental impacts from future land use changes, infrastructure development, and stationing decisions.

All members of the public, Federal, State, and local agencies, Tribes, and other interested parties are invited to actively participate in this EIS process.

Fort Stewart seeks comments on the alternatives proposed for analysis, on the proposed scope of the analysis for specific resource areas, and other comments participants wish to make addressing the proposed action. Additional alternatives may be developed in response to comments received during the public scoping period. Information about the EIS process as well as supporting documentation will also be available on the Fort Stewart M&MP website at www.Fortstewart-mmp-eis.com.

Public scoping meetings will be held on the dates and at the locations listed below. Meetings will begin at 6 p.m. with an informal poster display. Representatives will be available to describe the technical aspects of the proposed action and alternatives.

Experts in environmental disciplines will also be available to discuss anticipated impacts. The meetings will end at 8 p.m., or when no further comments are forthcoming.

Monday
Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum
175 Bourne Avenue
Pooler, Georgia 31322

Tuesday
Georgia National Guard Bureau Armory
607 West Oglethorpe Highway
Hinesville, Georgia 31313

April 16
John W. Stevens
Wetlands Education Center
Cedar Street
Richmond Hill, Georgia 31324

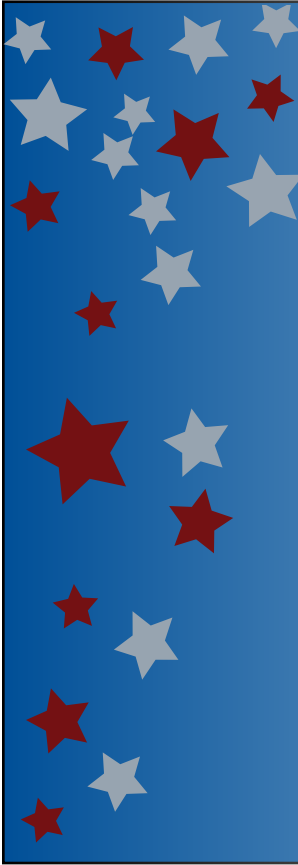
For more information, please contact Charles Walden, Project Manager, Directorate of Public Works, Prevention and Compliance Branch, Environmental Division, 1550 Frank Cochran Drive, Building 1137-A, Fort Stewart, GA 31314-4928. Written comments may be mailed to that address or e-mailed to him at Charles.Walden4@us.army.mil.

—Legal Notice—

Anyone having claims against, or who is indebted to the estate of, **Sgt. 1st Class Randy S. Abrams**, , Company A, 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, Fort Stewart, Ga. 31314, contact 1st Lt. Robert Seale, Fort Stewart, Ga., 31314 at 912-312-4055.

Anyone having claims against or who is indebted to the estate of **Pfc. Jason A. Kouis**, Company A, 3rd Battalion, 69th Armored Regiment, Fort Stewart, Ga. 31313, contact 1st Lt. David Baez, Fort Stewart, Ga., 31314 at 912-767-7220 or 813-495-3141.

Anyone having claims against or who is indebted to the estate of **Spc. Adam S. Gage**, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 260th Quartermaster Bn., Hunter Army Airfield, Ga., 31409, contact 2nd Lt. Scott Bata, 473rd QM Co., 260th QM Bn., Hunter Army Airfield, Ga., 31409, phone 912-315-8060.



NATIONAL HEALTHCARE DECISIONS DAY 2009

★ *your decisions matter* ★

Fort Stewart and 3rd Infantry Division, along with national, state and community organizations, are emphasizing the importance of advance healthcare decision-making with the formal designation of April 16 as National Healthcare Decisions Day. Information, forms and blood pressure screenings will be available from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Fort Stewart Army Education Center on April 16. Soldiers, Family Members, retirees, and Army Civilians are encouraged to attend.

★ ★ ★

*For more information, please call the Legal Assistance office:
Fort Stewart building 621- 767-8809/8819
Hunter Army Airfield, building 1211- 314-5115*

★ ★ ★

Education Matters



SFAC offers education assistance

The Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith and Hunter Army Airfield Education Centers are supporting our Warriors in Transition by offering accelerated daytime college courses. The classes are being conducted by Central Texas College. To enroll, Warriors must have an account on the GoArmyEd portal. Soldiers attached to Fort Stewart's Warrior Transition Unit can now receive educational and college program advice from their new guidance counselor, Janeen Rosenberg. She is located in the Soldier and Family Assistance Center, at 777 E. 10th St. or call 767-3328. Warriors at Hunter may see Fay Ward, education center counselor, at building 1290; 767-8331.

One week, daytime courses available

Central Texas College is now offering one semester hour daytime college classes that you can complete in just one week! Classes meet for three hours and are available during the morning or afternoon. Materials are included; you do not have to purchase textbooks. This is a great opportunity to earn elective credits for general studies, computer or management degrees. Choose from such courses as Effective Writing, Word Processing and Spreadsheet Applications, Personal Financial Management, and Managerial Planning. Of special interest this month will be the Prevention of Sexual Harassment, offered on April 27 from 1:15 to 4:00 p.m. at Stewart. Active-duty Soldiers using tuition assistance must meet with an education counselor for a course override. For a list of future courses, go to your education center or call CTC at 767-2070 at Stewart or 459-5181 at Hunter.

Central Texas College programs open to all

Central Texas College has recently been granted authorization to serve the educational needs of the public-at-large in Liberty and Chatham counties and the surrounding communities. CTC now joins our other on-post schools (Columbia College, Embry Riddle University, Savannah Technical College and Webster University) in offering their programs at Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield to the general public.

Courses conducted lead to associate degrees in Applied Management, Homeland Security & Emergency Management, Information Technology, Teaching, Paralegal/Legal Assistant, Social Work Specialization, and General Studies.

At present, an Associate of Arts Degree in Teaching in Early Childhood is offered locally, and a majority of the courses will transfer into Armstrong Atlantic State University's Education Degree requirements. CTC is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

For admissions information, visit the CTC office at your nearest education center or call 767-2070 at Stewart or 459-5181 at Hunter.

Savannah Tech info sessions held weekly

Savannah Technical College is offering weekly information sessions to explain its college, certificate and diploma programs and the HOPE/PELL grants. College representatives will highlight a different program of study every other Tuesday at 2 p.m., in room 206, building 100, on Fort Stewart. The next meeting on April 21 will detail the auto-collision repair diploma offered at the Savannah campus.

Of special interest to Family Members may be the recently introduced technical communication specialist certificate, which enables much of the curriculum to transfer to area colleges. Many required courses for Savannah Tech's programs are taught at the Sgt.1st Class Paul R. Smith Army Education Center. For more information, go to www.savannahtech.edu and www.gsfc.org or call 408-2430 at Stewart. You may also contact the Savannah Tech Campus in Hinesville at 408-3024 or in Savannah, 443-5700.

E-mail counselor-support made available

Need to reach an Army education counselor? Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield education centers offer a one-stop e-mail address to help. Just contact them via e-mail at stewcounselor@conus.army.mil.

Active-duty scholarship offered

The committee of the Henry "Hank" White Memorial Scholarship Fund Committee is offering the First Active-Duty \$1,000 Military Scholarship to be awarded to a qualified active-duty military Soldier stationed at Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield.

The purpose and intentions of the committee is to honor the legacy of the late Deacon Henry "Hank" White's lifetime commitment to community service by providing an education scholarship to an active-duty Soldier to pursue his or her post-secondary education.

Scholarship applications are now available at the Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith Education Center. For additional information concerning the Henry "Hank" White Memorial Scholarship, please contact Josephine White, Chairperson at 912-876-3336 or Derrick Taylor at 912-876-4513. You may also e-mail nrt@coastalnow.net. Applications must be postmarked no later than April 20.

3rd ID Society provides scholarship

The Society of the 3rd Infantry Division Scholarship Foundation, Inc. announces its "Legacy Program," through which donors received annual recognition, and its plans for 2009 scholarship grant awards. Soldiers of the Marne Division, past and present, and their children are eligible for scholarship grants. The deadline for scholarship grant applications to the foundation is May 1. The application and instruction forms are available on the 3rd ID Society Web site at www.3rdiv.org and on the foundation Web site at 3idscholarshipfoundation.org.

CLEP, DANTES exams are open on post

College Level Examination Program and DANTES Subject Standardized Tests are available on post. Call Columbia College at 877-3406 for more information and testing dates. The exams are free for military personnel. CLEP tests are \$90 and DSSTs are \$100 for non-military examinees.

Free test prep software available

Members of Military Families or veterans interested in receiving free SAT/ACT PowerPrep™ software should visit: www.eknowledge.com/military.

Over the past three years, eKnowledge Corporation and a handful of patriotic National Football League players have donated and delivered more than 100,000 SAT/ACT test prep programs normally priced at \$200, free to military Families worldwide. The total value of the donation is now over \$20 million.

This corporation is proud of the men and women in uniform and appreciate their tremendous sacrifice for our country. The corporation wants to ensure that military Families have the support they deserve with their continuing education requirements. For further information, e-mail LoriCaputo@eKnowledge.com.

DAU introduces new modules

Debbie Johnson
Defense Acquisition University

The Defense Acquisition University Continuous Learning Center offers continuous learning opportunities for Acquisition Technology and Logistics employees. The new modules are designed to maintain currency and help meet Department of Defense requirement to complete 80 points of continuous learning every two years. The center includes nearly 200 self-paced continuous learning modules that address topics important to the AT&L community.

DAU introduces the following Continuous Learning Modules, now online. The number of continuous learning points (CLPs) are listed per module. You can register for these CLMs at <http://clc.dau.mil>.

New Modules:
• Online Representations &

Certifications Application (CLE 043)
2 CLPs
• Intragovernmental Transactions (CLE 044)
3 CLPs
• Audit Readiness Requirements for DoD Equipment (CLM 048)
2 CLPS

Modules Coming Soon:
• DoD Government Purchase Card (CLG 001)
• Software Reuse (CLE 041)
• IUID Marking (CLE 040)

To register for modules, visit. www.clc.dau.mil. Additional continuous learning information can be found at www.clc.dau.mil. To browse modules, visit www.learn.dau.mil/html/clc/Clc.jsp. For questions or additional information, please contact Debbie Johnson at (478) 926-9409 or debbie.johnson@dau.mil.

D.A.R.E. keeps kids off drugs

Randall Thompson
Directorate of Emergency Services

Drug Abuse Resistance Education, better known as D.A.R.E. or DARE, is an international education program that seeks to prevent illegal drug use, gang membership, and violent behavior. D.A.R.E is a national non-profit organization that was founded in 1983 by Los Angeles Police Chief Darryl Gates, and has expanded globally since its founding in 1983. Students who enter the program sign a pledge not to use drugs or join gangs, and are taught by local law enforcement officers about the

dangers of drug use in an interactive, in-school curriculum that lasts ten weeks.

The D.A.R.E. program enables students to interact with police officers in a controlled, safe, classroom environment. This helps students and officers meet and understand each other in a friendly manner.

The instructors of the D.A.R.E. curriculum are local police officers who must undergo 80 hours of special training in areas such as child development, classroom management, teaching techniques and communication skills. The programs vary for different age levels.

Working with the classroom teachers, the officers lead students over a number of sessions on workbooks and interactive discussions. Currently on Fort Stewart, there are four School Resource Officers that are responsible for the education of over 2,100 students cumulatively. Fort Stewart D.A.R.E. was started in 2003 and has graduated a total of 2,011 students. During the 2008-2009 school years, D.A.R.E. graduated 216 fifth graders.



Scholarship registration open for Military spouses, children

Education Center

The ThanksUSA Scholarship Program plans to award 500 scholarships for \$3,000 each this year. Only the first 10,000 applications received will be processed. All Family Members, age 24 and under (as of the May 15 application deadline), and all spouses of active-duty U.S. military service personnel are eligible

to apply. Applicants must plan to enroll full-time in an accredited two-year or four-year college, university, vocational school or technical school, for undergraduate degrees only. They must also have at least a 2.5 cumulative grade point average on a 4.0 scale or its equivalent on their relevant academic record.

Scholarship recipients are selected on the basis of financial need, academic record and demonstrated

leadership, participation in school and community activities, and a goal statement. Preference will be given to children or spouses of service personnel killed or injured during active duty.

For information about ThanksUSA's Scholarship Program and to download the guidelines and application, go to www.thanksusa.org/main/scholarships.html. The application deadline is May 15.

DHR Spotlight: Tia Garrett

Special to the Frontline

Tia Garrett, the Fort Stewart Installation Drug Testing Coordinator, is the proud wife of (Ret.) Command Sgt. Maj. J. Garrett. She was born and raised in Louisville, Ky., and is a graduate of Spencerian College School of Fashion and Merchandizing. Garrett has two daughters - one is a senior at A&T Greensboro, N.C., and the other is a freshman at LaGrange College in Lagrange, Ga. She and her husband are owners of "Sho' Nuff Smokin Good BBQ" in Hinesville.

Garrett and her husband are both ordained ministers at Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church in Hinesville, under the leadership of Overseer M.L. Jackson and Elder S. Jackson.

Garrett began her civil service in 1990 in Baumholder, Germany, where she was the urinalysis technician at the Army Substance Abuse Program. She later became the Installation Biochemical Testing Coordinator.

In 1997, she returned to the United



States, to Fort Stewart, where she worked at the Department of Public Works for two years until she took a permanent change of station with her husband to Fort Bliss, Texas, in 1999. While there, she was the secretary at the Artillery School.

In 2000, the Garretts moved from Fort Bliss to Fort Carson, Colo. There, she continued to work in the GS system with V Corps at Peterson Air Base. She later transferred to Fort

Carson, before transferring to the operations section as the administrator. From there, Garrett moved with her husband to the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif. At Fort Irwin, she supervised the ID card section for two years.

In 2003, the Garretts returned to Fort Stewart. Tia was selected for a Human Resource position in Reassignments, and served in the position for two months before leaving the position for a promotion to the ASAP, when she was selected as the Assistant Program Administrator/Assistant IBTC, before moving into her current position.

Spartan Soldiers welcomed home

Pfc. Crystal M. Bradley
2nd BCT Public Affairs

Family Members of all ages, along with an entire battalion of Soldiers filled a training bay at 1st Battalion, 64th Armored Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team's motor pool, March 27.

Wives, mothers, daughters, fathers, sons and friends held and waved colorful signs, posters, and banners.

Applause and cheers increased as the announcer informed the awaiting audience on how long it would be until the expected Soldiers arrived.

Suddenly, the battalion snapped to the position of attention, and the crowd scrambled to their feet.

The 1/64 Armor Soldiers marched in, redeploying from Korea where they trained for more than three weeks.

The Soldiers left Fort Stewart March 1 for a 27-day tour in Korea and returned to the motor pool where they were received by their Families and comrades.

The Soldiers who stayed behind welcomed their battle buddies home with energetically.

"It feels really good to see them come back," said Sgt. Omar Melendez,

Company D, 1/64 Armor. "We notified the families of these Soldiers and everybody in the unit so that they could really feel the love and appreciation as soon as they got off the bus."

The returning Soldiers definitely felt the love and support, according to Staff Sgt. Norris Roberts, Forward Support Company, 1/64 Armor.

"The deployment was a great learning experience for us; camaraderie was definitely at a high," said Roberts. "The [combat life-saving] training and mount and dismount training was extremely beneficial, but I am so happy to have my wife in my arms again."

Specialist Anthony Morton, FSC, 1/64 Armor, said the experience prepared him for the combat zone.

"We got a chance to fire at the range and dismount and mount Bradleys," he said. "All of this was good training, but I think the CLS training was awesome."

"The way the medics yelled constantly added real-life pressure to the situation, and the blood actually spewing from the dummies' wounds made the training very realistic," Morton said. "Now, I am very confident that I can help my buddies in time of need."



Pfc. Crystal M. Bradley

Soldiers from 1/64 Armor, 2nd HBCT, 3rd ID march into their Welcome Home Ceremony held March 27 at 1/64 Armor's motor pool after their deployment to Korea.

Lieutenant Colonel Ross Kauffman, 1/64 Armor, 2nd BCT commander, said that the tour reiterated the Army is indeed all about leadership and development.

"This deployment was tremendous for the battalion," said Kauffman. "It

gave us a chance to build on the training we've already done, and it also helped to prepare us for the future."

Colonel Charles E. Sexton, 2nd BCT commander, welcomed the Soldiers home and promptly dismissed them to join their Families.

203rd BSB conducts sling load training



Spc. Ben Hutto

Soldiers assigned to the 203rd BSB, 3HBCT, practice sling loading a vehicle to a CH-47 helicopter during a training exercise at Fort Benning, Ga., March 19.

Spc. Ben Hutto
3rd HBCT Public Affairs

FORT BENNING, Ga. – Soldiers assigned to the 203rd Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, completed sling-load training at Fort Benning, March 19.

Approximately 90 Soldiers from companies A and B learned how to hook up a variety of loads to a CH-47 cargo helicopter that flew from Hunter Army Airfield, home of the 3rd ID's combat aviation brigade, to Fort Benning.

During the three-hour training, each Soldier got hands-on training hooking up a vehicle,

a water container and a cargo container to the helicopter and learning a variety of duty positions, including hook-up person, signalman and safety.

According to Maj. Damian Green, 203rd BSB's executive officer, the training was the first step in preparing Soldiers for their likely requirement of sling loading supplies or equipment to units within the brigade located on distant locations on battlefield.

During the 3rd HBCT's last deployment to Iraq, logisticians in the brigade conducted over 80 nighttime sling-load missions in support of the brigade's maneuver battalions.

WEST POINT

from Page 1A

Mahoney and Linnington surveyed 4th IBCT officers, noncommissioned officers and Family Members on what they felt the Army has done well and how the Army can improve. Linnington said the feedback he and his team receive goes directly to the Army Chief of Staff and Sergeant Major of the Army so that necessary changes can be made.

Changes suggested by Fort Campbell Soldiers and Family Members were implemented as early as two weeks after Linnington's team visited the

Kentucky-based installation, according to Sgt. 1st Class Kenneth Chaney, USMA Tactical Department NCO who accompanied the USMA commandant.

"A lot of Soldiers don't get the opportunity to speak directly with Army senior leadership," Chaney said. "Now, they can voice their concerns, not only for themselves but for their Families."

Army Families, who were welcome to share their concerns, are what Linnington described as essential to sus-

taining the Army during wartime.

"Eighty percent of Soldiers reenlist if their Family likes what they are doing," Linnington said. "You recruit Soldiers, but you retain Families."

Family Member Angela Everson, wife of Sgt. Jesse Everson of Company A, 3rd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment, 4th IBCT, said the Family Readiness Groups helped keep her informed and busy during her husband's recent deployment. She told

representatives from the Well Being G1 department that the programs the Army provides for spouses have improved over the years.

Cathy Jackman, Army Well Being department, informed Everson and other 4th IBCT Families of multiple improvements the Army has made since the birth of the Army Family Covenant.

"Families are feeling the benefits of \$1.4 billion," Jackman said. "There's new money being put into Army Family Housing, healthcare

and much more. We want to reward (Soldiers and Family Members) for their service and sacrifice."

Jackman said that though there is much the Army has done to better the quality of life for Soldiers and their Families there is always room for improvement. The Vanguard Brigade noted their suggestions on comment cards for the USMA team to filter to Army senior leadership. Linnington said his next round of surveys will be for Soldiers and Family Members of Fort Hood, Texas.

3rd BSB first to receive new tactical truck

Pfc. Jared S. Eastman
1HBCT Public Affairs

The 3rd Brigade Support Battalion was the first unit in the United States Army to receive the new Heavy Expanded Mobility Tactical Truck A4, April 7. Oshkosh Defense Company President Andy Hove officially handed over the new HEMTTs to 3rd BSB during a ceremony at Donovan Field.

"Today we are down here as Oshkosh Defense to commemorate the first unit to be equipped with the HEMTT A4," said Hove. "We're just happy to give them the new equipment."

In fact, 3rd BSB has had the new HEMTT for quite some time.

"We are the first unit in the entire United States Army to get this vehicle, and we are really excited to have it," said Lt. Col. Johnney Matthews, 3rd BSB commander. "About a month ago we took the new HEMTT A4s down to Camp Blanding [Fla.] for our Emergency Deployment Readiness Exercise, and our Soldiers had nothing but good things to say about it. The A4 has a lot of improvements, like a larger cab, air suspension and an air conditioner for the cab."

Production of the A4 incorporated feedback from Soldiers for its multiple new features, including an increase in engine horsepower.

"Our concept for this vehicle started with the feedback," said Hove, "We talk to Soldiers about their concerns, and that is a constantly ongoing process. But this concept we locked on to about a year and a half ago and got serious about the development. When you deal with trucks, there is the iron triangle, which means you always have opposition to either the payload, protection or performance of the vehicle. What we did on the A4 was expand all three aspects of the vehicle. Our whole goal was to make Soldiers' lives easier for what they do."

Hove has also had military experience from being one of those Soldiers working with a HEMTT.

"I was an armor platoon leader on the M683 on the inner German border in 1984," said Hove. "When I first saw that HEMTT roll up and I was handed the fuel tank key on the back deck, that was the best day of my life."

However, Matthews was quick to point out that one of the greatest abilities of the new HEMTT A4 is its armor.

"The new A4 can be up-armored in a day, and the larger engine gives it a greater performance," said Matthews. "The old HEMTTs are good; they get the job done, but these new ones will be a lot better."



photo by Pfc. Jared S. Eastman

Lieutenant Colonel Johnney Matthews, commander of the 3rd BSB, speaks at the Heavy Expanded Mobility Tactical Truck A4 fielding ceremony, April 7.

Colonel Roger Cloutier, 1st HBCT commander had nothing words of appreciation for Oshkosh Defense.

"December of 2005, I was a battalion commander going into Iraq for Operation Iraqi Freedom III," said Cloutier. "As I got into my sector, I noticed a HEMTT that had just been hit by an improvised explosive device. The HEMTT was over on the side of the road burning, and that was the first vehicle I saw destroyed by an IED during OIF III. But as I stopped and looked at the HEMTT, I noticed that the HEMTT was catastrophically destroyed, but the two Soldiers driving it were alive. What I want to say to Oshkosh Defense and its employees is that the product you put out saves lives, young men and women that drive it to accomplish the mission everyday."

EXERCISE — from Page 1A

The division's command team will have the chance to exercise the recommendations given by the BCTP and the 25th ID during Command Post Exercise III. Also, still fresh in the minds of the division staff are the lessons from CPX II that took place at Evans Army Airfield at Fort Stewart, March 23-27.

CPX II was the first field exercise in the training readiness series for the division and was designed to give headquarters staff and the brigades a chance to display command and control techniques while using the latest technology.

Directed by Forces Command, the 3rd ID evaluated limited user tests of the new version of Warfighter Information Technology or WIN-T, said Brig. Gen. Patrick Donahue, 3rd ID's deputy commanding general for maneuvers.

"This is the network the Army uses to pass its digital and voice communications between (the frontline) and its command posts," Donahue said during the exercise. "The new system has the potential to change Army communication."

The division's communication's officer, Lt. Col. Maria Biank, said WIN-T offers greater capability in terms of wireless internet use on the battlefield. If successful, the system will create wireless internet communication on the ground and through unmanned aerial vehicles, Biank added.

Sergeant John Farinelli, a communications noncommissioned officer who was part of the evaluating team, said that WIN-T will make it easier for a commander on the go to make things happen.

Next month's CPX III will be a precursor to the division's mission readiness exercise, which will be directed by Lt. Gen. Rick Lynch, the Fort Hood, Texas, and III Corps commander. Lynch said the objective of the MRX will be to get the 3rd ID ready for what it will encounter as soon as it hits the ground.

Spartan officers receive load training



Pfc. Crystal M. Bradley

Second Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division Commander, Col. Charles E. Sexton, instructs Spartan officers during an Officer Professional Development session, April 2, at 1st Battalion, 64th Armored Regiment, 2nd BCT, 3rd ID motor pool. Sexton briefed the leaders on the proper load configuration for the Bradley fighting machine, and he also informed stressed the importance of knowing the common operational function, especially during deployment. Major Marcus Wildy, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1/64 Armor, 2nd HBCT, 3rd ID, said that the training was excellent. "This training session gave the officers a picture of what 'right' looks like when it comes to the load configuration for the Bradley," he said. "It's good we got this training in right before we push out into the field to get ready for deployment."

For more information, visit
the Frontline online at
www.stewart.army.mil



Photos by Spc. Monica K. Smith

Chief Warrant Officer Josh Dellavecchia, B. Co., 4/3 Avn., prepares to drive through a lane designed to train motorcycle riders how to manage turns during motorcycle safety training at Hunter Army Airfield, April 3.

CAB focuses on motorcycle safety

Spc. Monica K. Smith
CAB Public Affairs

Every motorcycle rider in the Army is required to take a mandatory motorcycle safety class, however riders in the 3rd Combat Aviation Brigade took time to refresh themselves on motorcycle safety during motorcycle safety training, March 27 and

April 3, at Hunter Army Airfield. “With the weather getting better and more riders getting out on the road, the goal for the training was to re-focus our riders on getting their bikes ready for the riding season, give them some tips on how to properly maintain them and help them recognize some of the danger spots in the local area,” said Chief

Warrant Officer Randy Kirgess, 3rd CAB safety officer. “Additionally, we wanted to put them through some maneuvers and drills to brush the cobwebs off of their riding skills that may have accumulated over the winter months.”

The motorcycle-riding Soldiers, new and experienced alike, took part in a class March 27 that covered maintenance and general care of motorcycles. The class was given by members of Superbike Specialties, a bike store that also sells parts and has a full-service body shop.

“We wanted to improve their knowledge,” said Adam Gati, owner of Superbike Specialties. “Basically, we don’t want to come in here and tell them to come to the shop and buy this or buy that. We want them to be safe - that’s the main thing.”

The second training session was a week later, on April 3, and consisted of riders taking their bikes through various lanes, testing their ability to brake quickly,

manage turns and weave. Instructors manned each lane to help riders perform better on each task.

“Everyone should practice the fundamentals of riding to continue enhancing their experience and their safety,” said Sgt. Wendy Terry, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd CAB. “What was good about this training was that you were on your own personal motorcycle instead of just the one that is provided for you in the safety course.”

The focus and theme of the training was letting Soldiers know there is a time and place for everything, said Kirgess.

“Traffic conditions are con-

tinually changing and riders must modify their riding style and habits based on the conditions at the time,” Kirgess said. “For those Soldiers, young and old, that want to push their bikes to the limits of their performance, there are closed tracks with professional instructors and control riders available in the local area to give proper instruction and provide facilities that are more conducive to such activities. Riding fast down Abercorn during rush hour traffic isn’t the time or place to see how fast your motorcycle will go. That not only puts the rider in danger, it needlessly exposes innocent others to the risk as well.”



Chief Warrant Officer Josh Dellavecchia, B Co., 4/3 Avn. Regt. prepares to ride through a lane designed to train riders on how to manage turns during motorcycle safety training at Hunter Army Airfield, April 3.



Spc. Michael Adams

6/8 Cav conducts CBRNE training

Sergeant Gewargis Youabb, a scout with 6th Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, recites his social security number inside a gas chamber. Youabb was taking part in his troop's Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, High Yield Explosive training at Fort Stewart, April 7.

GRAND OPENING

SDS

10 a.m., April 15

SUPERBIKE SPECIALTIES

Motorcycle Safety Gear & Accesories

Located next to the main Shoppette

AAFESE

Florida school dedicated in honor of SFC Paul R. Smith

J. Elise Van Pool
Public Affairs Specialist

“Medal of Honor winners don’t do it for the medal - they do it for the mission,” said Brig. Gen. Mark S. Bowman, director of command, control, communications, and computer systems, headquarters U.S. Central Command, at the dedication of the new Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith Middle School, in Tampa, Fla.

Smith was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor in 2005 for his actions during the fight to secure the Baghdad International Airport on April 4, 2003.

Speaking to a crowd of nearly 100 people in the school cafeteria, Bowman was joined by Birgit Smith, Smith’s widow, and several noncommissioned officers from the 3rd Infantry Division for the dedication of newest

middle school in Hillsborough County.

“He was just an ordinary guy, but with purpose,” Bowman said of Smith. “He was a man who stood for purposeful training.”

Bowman encouraged the staff and faculty of the middle school to educate students with purpose, as Smith trained his Soldiers.

The dedication ceremony began with a selection by the school’s orchestra, and a statement from the school’s teacher of the year. The chairman of the school board also spoke at the dedication.

“It’s very important; I know for sure his name will live on forever,” said Birgit Smith, who was accompanied by their son and several other members of the Smith Family. “I hope (the students) live like him - be brave, go on with life and be there for each other.”

Birgit continued, saying the event was bittersweet for her and her family, but she expressed joy at her husband being honored.

Following the ceremony, Command Sgt. Maj. Jesse Andrews, 3 ID command sergeant major, and Command Sgt. Maj. Timothy Campbell, 2-3 Brigade Troops Battalion command sergeant major, presented the school’s principle, Kathleen Flanagan, a plaque in memory of Smith on behalf of the 3rd Infantry Division.

Smith Middle School has an enrollment of just over 1,000 students, ranging from sixth to eighth grade.

Smith’s home of record was Tampa, and he was a product of the Hillsborough County school system.

This is the second Tampa-area school to be named in honor of Smith. The first, also a middle school, was dedicated in his

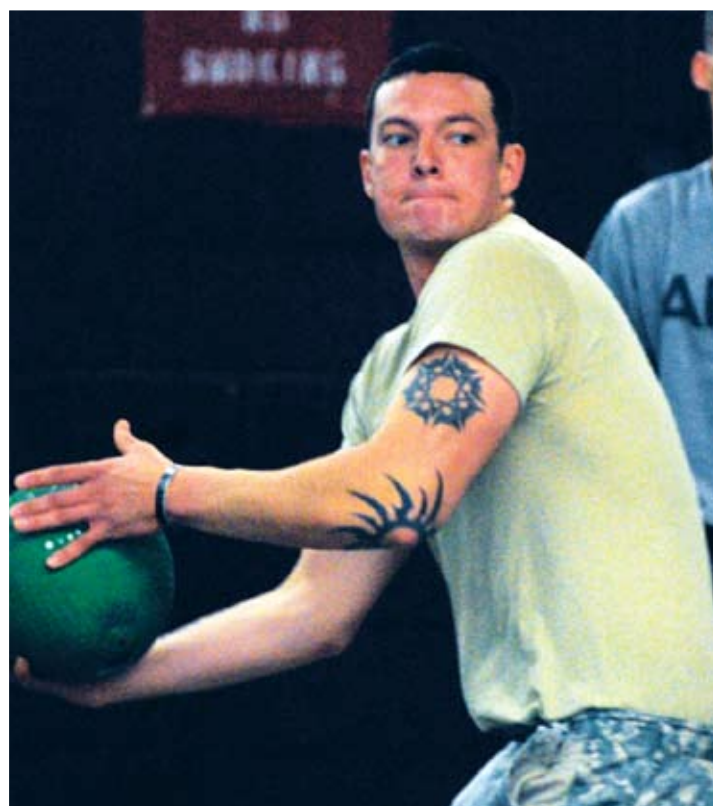


J. Elise Van Pool

Command Sgt. Maj. Jesse Andrews, 3 ID senior enlisted advisor, speaks with Birgit Smith, the widow of Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith, and her granddaughter at the dedication of the Paul R. Smith Middle School dedication in Tampa, Fla.

honor in Holiday, Fla., in 2006. Smith was a member of Company B, 11th Engineer Battalion, 3ID. He was also a

veteran of Desert Storm. He is survived by his wife, his son David, and stepdaughter Jessica.



Pfc. Jared Eastman

Sergeant Aaron Hestand, a scout in HHC 3/69 Armor Div., aims a dodge ball during their best platoon competition at 3/69 motor pool, March 27.

3/69 trains hard, plays hard with Best Platoon Competition

Pfc. Jared S. Eastman
1HBCT Public Affairs

The 3rd Battalion, 69th Armor Regiment, recently held a best platoon competition with a variety of events. The competition, designed by not only the command staff of 3/69, but company commanders and first sergeants as well, ended with a organizational day, March 28, where the winners were announced.

"Today is the organization day for our battalion, and really, it is a culmination of the 'best platoon competition' we've been doing all week," said Lt. Col. Jessie Robinson, battalion commander of 3/69 Armor. "The Soldiers got a lot of esprit de corps out of this event, I've had many Soldiers come up to me and say, 'hey, sir,

this was a great thing to do."

Along with the week-long best platoon competition, the battalion also had a best company competition that included sports and cake decorating.

"We've been training really hard for the past three months, with dismounted live fires, air assaults and other training events," said Robinson. "This is a good down week for the battalion so everyone can get their spirits back up and get the Families together to have fun."

Company C. took 1st place overall for the organization day, with B Co. close behind. Although the organization day was the pinnacle of the best platoon competition, the week before was full of platoon reflex shoots, combat-ives and quite a few games of

dodge ball.

"I was pretty busy running the combatives tournament all week," said 1st Sgt. Jack Tripp, Company D, 3/69. "I spent all my time in the 3/69 'Fight House.' The Soldiers had a great time with it."

The Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3/69 Scouts, won first place in the best platoon competition, with 3rd Platoon, Company B. finishing second. For their win, the Scouts earned a day off, and 3rd Plt., B Co., earned a week of free physical training.

"I saw that the battalion was doing a lot of hard training for an extended period of time and I realized that you have to train hard, and you have to play hard too," Robinson said.

CAB trains on new model aircraft

Spc. Monica K. Smith
CAB Public Affairs

When Soldiers receive new equipment, training on the equipment follows. In the case of the 3rd Squadron, 17th Cavalry Regiment, Combat Aviation Brigade, at Hunter Army Airfield, the arrival of a new helicopter meant a two-week training event, beginning March 23.

“We’re transitioning from the OH-58 D model to the OH-58 DR model,” said Chief Warrant Officer Bud Kenney, maintenance test pilot and evaluation instructor pilot with the Directorate of Evaluation and Standardization from Fort Rucker, Ala. “Portions are different, such as the way the engine is controlled. There are power differences and it integrates the Blue Force Tracker [a system that

provides commanders with information about the location of their Servicemembers and that of the enemy].”

The new model’s name is based off the new engine it received, the R-3 full authority digital electronic control, which is the primary difference in the new model aircraft.

“This engine is more powerful, giving the aircraft more capabilities,” said Kenney. “But there are a lot of different procedures. If the new fuel control system fails, the pilot has to manually control the throttle, and that’s one of the main things we’re training here – manual throttle operations.”

After two weeks of training, with 28 aviators logging 80 hours of flight time, Chief Warrant Officer Terry Horner, standardization pilot and instructor examiner with DES, said he

felt the training went well.

“It takes a couple of hours to build the muscle memory back up to execute the emergency procedures,” said Horner. “It’s not like they can practice this on their own. This particular training is restricted to the school house, but that’s one of the things that we are authorized to do, and DES can help them because of mobile trainers.”

Chief Warrant Officer Nikia Payne, a pilot in Troop C, 3/17 Cav., said the training is beneficial for pilots who have flown the R models in flight school but need a refresher.

Payne said the training went well. The team learned new things, but Payne claims the aircraft still flies the same. He said, “It’s only if it fails then you have to do everything yourself, but there’s no difference in flying.”



Spc. Monica Smith

Chief Warrant Officer Patrick Kelly (left), HHT, 3/17 Cav. Regt., goes over the DR-model Kiowa Warrior with Chief Warrant Officer Nikia Payne, Troop C, 3/17 Cav., at Hunter Army Airfield, April 3.

3rd SB chooses top drill platoon

Spc. Gaelen Lowers
3rd Sustainment Brigade PAO

The best of the best is what the 3rd Sustainment Brigade was looking for when they conducted a drill and ceremony competition, April 3.

The objective of the competition was to determine which platoon-sized element would be sent to the Better Opportunity for Single Soldiers’ Division-wide drill and ceremony competition scheduled for 9 a.m., April 24.

“It was awesome,” said Staff Sgt. ShaVonda Douglas, Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Brigade. “Everyone gave input. It was a team effort.”

There were two groups participating in the drill and ceremony competition: the 87th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion and the STB. Each team performed sev-

eral commands that would demonstrate their mastery of drill and ceremony in front of several brigade judges.

The STB edged out the 87th CSSB with a score of 94 to 80. They will now prepare for the upcoming main event.

“If you thought today was awesome, wait until you see (our performance) at division,” said Douglas.

Although this was the 3rd Sustainment Brigade’s first drill competition, Command Sgt. Maj. Clifton Johnson, senior enlisted advisor of the 3rd Sustainment Brigade, assured that there would be more to come.

“This is the first time we’ve done this, and this won’t be the last,” Johnson said. “This is the start of something great.”

The BOSS drill and ceremony competition will take place at the Motorcycle Safety Course parking lot at Fort Stewart.

For information about affordable Family fun in the tri-state area, pick up a copy of Quality Time magazine.